

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 01033 01 OF 02 181846Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /079 W
-----182026Z 083145 /44

R 181837Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4812
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01033

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, GW
SUBJECT: MINISTER LEBER FIRES ANOTHER GENERAL

REF: BONN 18553 DTG 031748Z NOV 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: A PRESS CONTROVERSY HAS ERUPTED OVER THE
ACTIVITIES OF MAJOR GENERAL DR. EBERHARD WAGEMANN, THE
COMMANDER OF THE BUNDESWEHR (FEDERAL ARMED FORCES)
ACADEMY AT HAMBURG. ALLEGEDLY, WAGEMANN DISOBEYED AN
INSTRUCTION FROM THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE TO
INTRODUCE CODETERMINATION IN THE SCHOOL. HE HAD ALSO
BEEN IN HOT WATER BECAUSE OF A PRO-PINOCHET LECTURE GIVEN
BY A CHILEAN STUDENT AT THE ACADEMY. MINISTER LEBER
SETTLED THE MATTER BY DIRECTING THAT WAGEMANN BE RETIRED
ON SEPTEMBER 30. IN MAKING THIS DECISION, HE ANNOUNCED
THAT THE REAL TARGET OF WAGEMANN'S CRITICS WAS NOT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 01033 01 OF 02 181846Z

GENERAL BUT THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENSE. LEBER
EMPHATICALLY DENIED THAT HE WAS SUFFERING FROM OFFICE
FATIGUE AND ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO STAY ON THE JOB.
END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 10 THE WEST GERMAN RADIO REPORTED THAT
THE COMMANDER OF THE BUNDESWEHR ACADEMY, MAJOR GENERAL

DR. EBERHARD WAGEMANN, FACED EARLY RETIREMENT. ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 10, THE SPOKESMAN OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY DECLARED THAT MINISTER LEBER HAD ALREADY DECIDED ON THE ROUTINE BUNDESWEHR PERSONNEL CHANGES MADE EACH APRIL 1 AND THAT WAGEMANN WAS NOT ON THE FORTHCOMING LIST. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SPOKESMAN ADDED, A PRE-MATURE RETIREMENT WOULD NOT BE UNUSUAL BECAUSE OF WAGEMANN'S WORLD WAR II WOUNDS. DESPITE THIS DENIAL, THE JANUARY 11 ISSUE OF MAJOR NEWSPAPERS CARRIED REPORTS ABOUT WAGEMANN'S POSSIBLE EARLY RETIREMENT. THE PAPERS NOTED THAT WAGEMANN, WHO IS CONSIDERED A HIGHLY QUALIFIED OFFICER AND ALSO A VERY OPINIONATED MAN, HAS NOT ONLY BEEN SUBJECT TO CRITICISM BY LEFT WING SPD POLITICIANS BUT ALSO HAS FEW FRIENDS.

2. WAGEMANN HAD BECOME PARTICULARLY WELL-KNOWN WHEN HE ALLOWED COLONEL KRAUSHAAR, A STUDENT AT THE HAMBURG BUNDESWEHR ACADEMY, TO ADDRESS STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS LAST YEAR. THIS SPEECH WAS CONSIDERED AS A EULOGY OF THE PINOCHET REGIME IN CHILE. SOME PAPERS HAVE ALSO ALLEGED THAT WAGEMANN NEGLECTED THE PRINCIPLES OF "INNERE FUEHRUNG" (LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC EDUCATION). HOWEVER, THE JANUARY 13 ISSUE OF THE "FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG" (INDEPENDENT/CONSERVATIVE) CLAIMED THAT WAGEMANN WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO FIGHT FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF "INNERE FUEHRUNG" PRINCIPLES IN THE BUNDESWEHR. INDEED, DURING GENERAL ULRICH DE MAIZIERE'S TERM OF OFFICE AS INSPECTOR GENERAL, DR. WAGEMANN HAD BEEN CHIEF OF THE "INNERE FUEHRUNG" SUB-SECTION OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 01033 01 OF 02 181846Z

DEFENSE MINISTRY.

3. WHATEVER THE TRUTH OF THIS MATTER MAY BE, WAGEMANN HAD GIVEN RISE TO CONTROVERSY EARLIER LAST YEAR BECAUSE OF HIS VIEWS ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ACADEMY. ON OCTOBER 1, 1975, THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAD CONCURRED IN AN SPD/FDP RECOMMENDATION AND DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A MORE CIVILIAN CHARACTER TO THE ACADEMY COMPARABLE TO THAT EXISTING IN THE BUNDESWEHR UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES. THIS DECISION WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FORMER PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CODETERMINATION BODY OF THE BUNDESWEHR ACADEMY, THE SO-CALLED "CONSILIUM."

4. ACCORDING TO THE JANUARY 13 ISSUE OF BONN'S "GENERAL-ANZEIGER" (INDEPENDENT), DR. WAGEMANN'S DEPUTY, BRIGADIER GENERAL GUENTER RAULF, PRESENTED HIS VIEWS CONCERNING A MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE CODETERMINATION

INSTRUMENT TO WAGEMANN IN JANUARY OF 1976.
WAGEMANN CONSIDERED THIS AN ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE SINCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 01033 02 OF 02 181849Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /079 W
-----182026Z 083200 /43

R 181837Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4813
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAF RAMSTEIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01033

HE HAD MADE IT KNOWN THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO DISCUSS THE
INTRODUCTION OF A "CONSILIUM." WAGEMANN WAS SUPPORTED
BY AN ORDER FROM THE FORMER INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE
BUNDESWEHR, ADMIRAL ARMIN ZIMMERMANN. THEIR VIEW IS
SAID TO BE SHARED BY A MAJORITY OF HIGH-RANKING GERMAN
MILITARY OFFICERS WHO BELIEVE THAT THE BUNDESWEHR
ACADEMY DIFFERS BASICALLY FROM THE BUNDESWEHR COLLEGES.
THEY FEEL THAT THE LATTER HAVE A CIVILIAN CHARACTER,
WHILE THE ACADEMY IS A PURELY MILITARY INSTITUTION WHICH
SHOULD BE BASED ON MILITARY PRINCIPLES. THE CONTROVERSY
LED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL RAULF BEING TRANSFERRED TO
HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED FORCES CENTRAL EUROPE IN BRUSSELS.

5. REFORMERS IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION CONSIDERED THIS
TO BE DISOBEDIENCE OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE DECISION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 01033 02 OF 02 181849Z

THEY CONTINUED PRESSING FOR THE EARLY RETIREMENT OF WAGEMANN. THE REFORMERS WERE ALLEGEDLY ASSURED THAT HE WOULD BE RETIRED ON APRIL 1, 1977. THE PARLIAMENTARY STATE SECRETARY OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, DR. ANDREAS VON BUELOW (SPD), WAS THEN SENT TO THE ACADEMY IN ORDER TO INVESTIGATE MATTERS AT FIRST HAND. ACCORDING TO JAN. 13 PRESS REPORTS, IT WAS THEN DECIDED TO DEFER WAGEMANN'S RETIREMENT UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, FOR "TECHNICAL REASONS." THE FORMER FRG MILITARY ATTACHE IN PARIS, HUBERT BUNG, NAMED AS WAGEMANN'S SUCCESSOR, IS SAID NOT YET TO BE SUFFICIENTLY PREPARED TO FILL THE POSITION OF COMMANDER OF THE BUNDESWEHR ACADEMY.

6. ON JANUARY 17, MINISTER LEBER GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO THE HAMBURG "BILD" (RIGHT CENTER) WHERE HE ANNOUNCED THAT WAGEMANN WOULD BE RETIRED ON SEPTEMBER 30. WHILE DENYING THAT WAGEMANN WILL BE RETIRED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, LEBER ADMITTED THAT THE HEAD OF THE BUNDESWEHR ACADEMY HAD GIVEN HIM MORE TROUBLE THAN ANY OTHER GENERAL. NOTING THAT MANY OFFICERS OF GENERAL WAGEMANN'S AGE GROUP HAD ALREADY BEEN RETIRED, LEBER DENIED THAT HE WAS ACTING UNDER PRESSURE OR THAT HE HAD FAILED TO PROTECT THE GENERAL. "IN REALITY THE ATTACKS ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST GENERAL WAGEMANN BUT AGAINST MYSELF. THE THRUST IS 'WE MUST COOK LEBER'S GOOSE.'" IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION WHO WAS OUT TO GET HIM, LEBER WENT ON TO SAY: "WHAT MATTERS IS THE UPSETTING OF MY POLITICAL POSITION. THEY SAY WAGEMANN AND MEAN LEBER; THE TARGET IS THE GOVERNMENT." IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IF HE IS SUFFERING FROM OFFICE FATIGUE, LEBER REPLIED WITH AN EMPHATIC "NO." GOING ON, HE STATED THAT "WHAT IS TIRING IS THAT SOME PEOPLE KEEP CLAIMING THIS. I WILL STAY ON THE JOB EVEN IF THEY MAKE IT HARD FOR ME."

7. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO DISAGREE WITH LEBER'S CLAIM THAT HE IS THE REAL TARGET OF THE ATTACK. "INNER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 01033 02 OF 02 181849Z

LEADERSHIP" AND "CODETERMINATION" ARE, OF COURSE, IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES FOR THE GOVERNING COALITION WHICH BUNDESWEHR OFFICERS NEGLECT ONLY AT THE RISK OF THEIR CAREERS. YET, THE BASIC FACTORS APPEAR TO BE THE OPPOSITION'S DESIRE TO ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT WHERE THE COALITION SEEMS WEAKEST AND THE DESIRE OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE SPD'S LEFT WING TO FORCE OUT A MINISTER WHOM THEY

VIEW AS OVERLY-SOLICITOUS OF BUNDESWEHR VIEWS. THESE
WERE THE GOVERNING FACTORS IN THE AFFAIR OF THE AIR FORCE
GENERALS AND THE OTHER CONTROVERSIES WHICH HAVE SWIRLED
AROUND THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IN RECENT YEARS (REFTEL).
THEY APPEAR TO BE OPERATIVE TODAY.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, MILITARY SCHOOLS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN01033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770018-1054
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770143/aaaabljr.tel
Line Count: 230
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1431dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 18553
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3576114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER LEBER FIRES ANOTHER GENERAL
TAGS: MPOL, GE, (LEBER, GEORG), (WAGEMANN, EBERHARD)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1431dbd5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009